

Selected Poetry.

LINES WRITTEN BY A CONVICT
IN MASSACHUSETTS STATE PRISON.

FROM TWO MONTHS AGO.

Oh! how I'm penitent! loo! all,
With you who are so kind to me,
And who have given me so many hours,
To tell this troubled heart to rest!

For I am now a criminal—
Have tried my best to sin, —

And could no crime be found,
With which to sin, when I was here.

For thoughts to show that nothing blam'd,
That even the evil ones never,
Had done in greater a short time,
When kindly friends encoun'rd me,

Supper'd with me, when I was free.

But every thought seems grim,

And they readily appear,

Like shadows in the gloom.

Those looks that have been for years,

Are now the marks of misery;

Or all my friends are gone,

And I am free.

My wife, my partner of the past,

As we've had, holds the same load,

With such a heavy heart,

As to my body's every bone,

And such a heavy soul.

My friends there leave me by one,

The last to leave, when summer's gone,

Alas, to bear the winter's blow;

And I am left alone.

And in my body every bone is sore,

And every muscle aches,

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